

REMARKS

Claims 5 and 6 are all the claims pending in the application.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kazunori (JP 06-270042) in view of Katsuhiro et al. (JP 61-261011; hereinafter “Katsuhiro”) and in view of Vogt (U.S. Patent No. 2,759,618). For at least the following reasons, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Claim 5 is amended and recites a lens-casting-mold assembling apparatus, comprising,

inter alia:

“wherein said tape winding device includes a tape roll holding device which holds an adhesive tape roll of wound adhesive tape, a tape keep device which holds a distal end side of the adhesive tape drawn out from the adhesive tape roll, a tape drawing-out device which is constructed so as to draw out the adhesive tape from the adhesive tape roll by moving from a first position to a second position, with respect to the tape winding device, in a state where the distal end side of the adhesive tape is held by the tape keep device, and to moving from the second position to the first position when the adhesive tape is to be wound onto the peripheral surfaces of the concave mold and the convex mold, a cutting device which cuts the adhesive tape, a rotation drive device which simultaneously rotates the positioned concave and convex molds, and a press roller which is capable of abutting on and separating from the peripheral surfaces of the concave and convex molds.”

The Examiner acknowledges that neither Kazunori nor Katsuhiro teach or suggest the claimed tape winding device, as recited in claim 5. Instead, the Examiner relies on Vogt as allegedly disclosing this claimed feature.

Vogt discloses a tape holder 10 with an applicator device which consists of a curved plate 26 and supporting plate 27 (col. 2, lines 10-18; col. 2, lines 35-37). Vogt further discloses that a

spring 28 is secured to the upper end of the plate 27 and extends inwardly, engaging the snubbing surface 24 (col. 2, lines 40-43). When the tape is applied to a surface, Vogt discloses that “the holder is moved so that the free end of the tape is moved from a position indicated at 41 to the position shown at 42 and pressed against the desired surface by the applicator device” and that “[as] the holder is pressed against the surface and moved with respect thereto, the tape is unrolled from the roll and applied against the surface under pressure” (col. 2, lines 64-72).

The Examiner alleges that the applicator device of Vogt corresponds to the claimed tape drawing-out device, however, the applicator device is not constructed to move when a distal end side of the adhesive tape is held by a tape keep device, nor move back when the adhesive tape is wound back. While Vogt discloses that the applicator device comprises the spring 28, Vogt does not teach or suggest that the applicator device moves when the distal end side of the adhesive tape is held by the a tape keep device. Vogt merely discloses that the entire tape holder 10 is moved when applying the tape.

In contrast, claim 5 recites “a tape drawing-out device which is constructed so as to draw out the adhesive tape from the adhesive tape roll **by moving** from a first position to a second position, with respect to the tape winding device, in a state where the distal end side of the adhesive tape is held by the tape keep device, and to **moving** from the second position to the first position when the adhesive tape is to be wound onto the peripheral surfaces of the concave mold and the convex mold” (emphasis added). Clearly Vogt fails to teach or suggest at least this claimed feature.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 5 is patentable over the applied reference. Applicant further submits that claims 6 is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency on claim 5.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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